

[illegible]

other saw authority residing not in kind of bishop or other outside officer but within the "body of believers" itself. There was no such as "separation of church and state" — the company of the faithful came to work and to worship and to dispose of their own affairs in what they felt to be and expressed in that combination of church and state called the "Church of England." They were all together in the worship of God and work for the Calvinistic hearing an order from "on high" but by reading and interpreting God's divine authority with its address and intention, limitations and prohibitions which later seemed to the Puritans of Salem and Boston were more radical. The Puritans of Salem and Boston were more radical than the Pilgrims of Plymouth but on the whole "congregationalism" was the norm for assemblies of all kinds throughout New England. Doubtless a annual town meetings were always held in the Town Hall after its construction along with the Puritages Academy and the First Parish Church in the 1640's. By this date townsmen supported along with own municipalities and their tax money after 1726 the 1640's. By this date townsmen supported along with own municipalities and their tax money after 1726 the 1640's. By this date townsmen supported along with own municipalities and their tax money after 1726 the 1640's.

My father loved Town Meeting. He felt it was the open forum and hence the motivating power of everything that took place in town. He spent hours in preparation for it although he held only a second-hand position in his life as clerk of the fire department and forest warden. I can see him now as he stood on the porch at the entrance of Town Hall (now called "Old Town Hall") as the glad-handed citizens on their way with the clerk's greeting, "Good Morning, Glad to see you, isn't this good Republican weather!" This was his political allegiance and he held it religiously all the way through town officers and state representatives and even the presidency itself. I feel it was his religion. My mother used to say to me, "You'd better keep his Republicanism so strong!" and I would feel rather free to say to her, "I don't know, but I feel his Republicanism so strong!"

First Parish Church, Old Town Hall, Farnbridge
Drawing by Rev. Ernest Pugh
1918



Come to Town Meeting
April 28
By the REV. CANON ROBERT MERRY

Donbryn & Co. Ltd.
Section 2 Wednesday, February 28, 1990